

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Claims 16-18 and 20-22 are pending in this application. Claims 13-15, 19 and 23-24 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-12 were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

At page 2 of the Action, the examiner objects to claims 13, 21 and 24. Claim 21 is amended as suggested by the examiner. The amendment to claim 21 is not a narrowing amendment. Claims 13 and 24 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 13-15, 19 and 23-24 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as obvious over Takeda in view of Lyones. Claims 13-15, 19 and 23-24 are rejected without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, this rejection is moot.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

At page 7 of the Action, the Examiner indicates that claims 16-18 and 20-22 would be allowable if rewritten to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. This indication of allowable subject matter is very much appreciated. Claims 16 and 20 are rewritten in independent form and, therefore, these claims as amended are not narrowed. Claims 17-18 and 21-22 depend from rewritten claims 16 and 20, respectively.

Accordingly, allowance of claims 16-18 and 20-22 is respectfully requested.

Other than as explicitly set forth above, this reply does not include acquiescence to statements, assertions, assumptions, conclusions, or combination thereof in the Office Action. In view of the above, all the claims are considered patentable and allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned (at direct line 512-

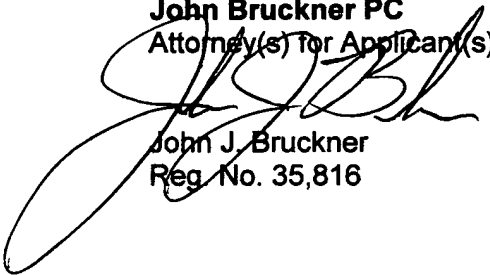
394-0118) for prompt action in the event any issues remain that prevent the allowance of any pending claims.

No fee is due for filing this Reply because it is being filed within the shortened statutory period for response as set in the Office Action dated *.

The Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-3204 of John Bruckner PC.

Respectfully submitted,

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